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20 JUN 2005

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 24 MAY 2005

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 11065PC2-MAH/AM	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/AU2003/001706	International filing date (day/month/year) 22 December 2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 December 2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> G06F 17/30			
Applicant REDBANK MANOR PTY LTD et al			

- This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
  - ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 3 sheets, as follows:
    - ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
    - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
  - ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20 July 2004	Date of completion of the report 5 April 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer  John Thomson Telephone No. (02) 6283 2214

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## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001706

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-16,18-28 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* 17 received by this Authority with the letter of 31 March 2005
- pages\* received by this Authority with the letter of
- ☒ the claims:
- pages 29,30,32 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages\* 31 received by this Authority with the letter of 31 March 2005
- pages\* received by this Authority with the letter of
- ☒ the drawings:
- pages 2-12 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* 1 received by this Authority with the letter of 31 March 2005
- pages\* received by this Authority with the letter of
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(e)).
- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001706

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-26	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-26	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-26	YES
	Claims	NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-26 The closest prior art was found to be:

- WO 2001/084374 A
- WO 2001/075728 A
- WO 2000/036529 A
- US 2002/0143757 A

No individual citation or obvious combination of citations discloses a method of reporting search results including the steps of retrieving search results from one or more search engines, filtering the retrieved search results according to criteria, extracting locational information from the filtered search results, storing the locational information in output hierarchies, and displaying the search results within the output hierarchies.

4) A Flag icon to flag an item for later reference. Clicking on this adds the item with its hierarchical context (the folders or categories under which it is found) to the flagged entries list. This can also be done by using the menu structure activated by the Hierarchy Action icon. Clicking on the Flag icon again may remove the entry from the list.

This feature assists users by allowing them to collapse hierarchies they have sifted to liberate screen space, while maintaining a reference to items in a collapsed hierarchy of further interest. Where a user only remembers having seen an entry of interest and flagging it, but not the name of the entry or position in a hierarchy, a new search can be specified, with the entries in the flagged list forming a constraint in the scope of the search.

5) The Interface also provides the ability to add entries to a favourites list which is a custom hierarchy created by the user. In this way, users can create their own taxonomies which themselves are searchable, as like the flagged entries hierarchy (or any previous search result for that matter), can form the basis of constraining exclusion or inclusions in further searches. Figure 6 shows an item previously added (perhaps using another search) to the Favorites Hierarchy marked with a star This may be clicked to go to the corresponding entry in the Favorites Hierarchy.

6) Each entry has a "Done With Item" checkbox. When checked this removes item details and any open summary or detail box or window, while still leaving the first line of the entry visible. Optionally, it may also change the colour of the done item's text. In this way, the 'Done Item' checkbox allows users to mark off investigated entries, without removing them from view in case later reference to them is required.

an hierarchical data modeller means that extracts locational information from the filtered search results and compiles said search results into output hierarchies based upon the locational information.

5 16. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a search engine submitter means adapted to accept a search query from a user and to submit the search query to one or more search engines.

10 17. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a Report Renderer means that displays the search results within the output hierarchies.

18. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising means for manipulating said hierarchies to collapse, expand, move or flag said search results.

15 19. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising means for adding notes and discussions to search results and/or hierarchies.

20. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a display means that sorts and prioritises the search results within a display hierarchy or between display hierarchies.

20 21. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a search engine submitter means adapted to accept a search query from a user and to submit the search query to one or more search engines.

22. The search result reporting engine of claim 21 wherein search engine submitter reformats the search query for each search engine.

25 23. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 further comprising a storage means for storage of search results and hierarchies.

24. The search result reporting engine of claim 23 wherein the storage means provide the capacity to merge new results with stored results.

30 25. The search result reporting engine of claim 15 wherein the hierarchical data modeller comprises means for extracting location and meta information from a search engine result set; means for compiling the

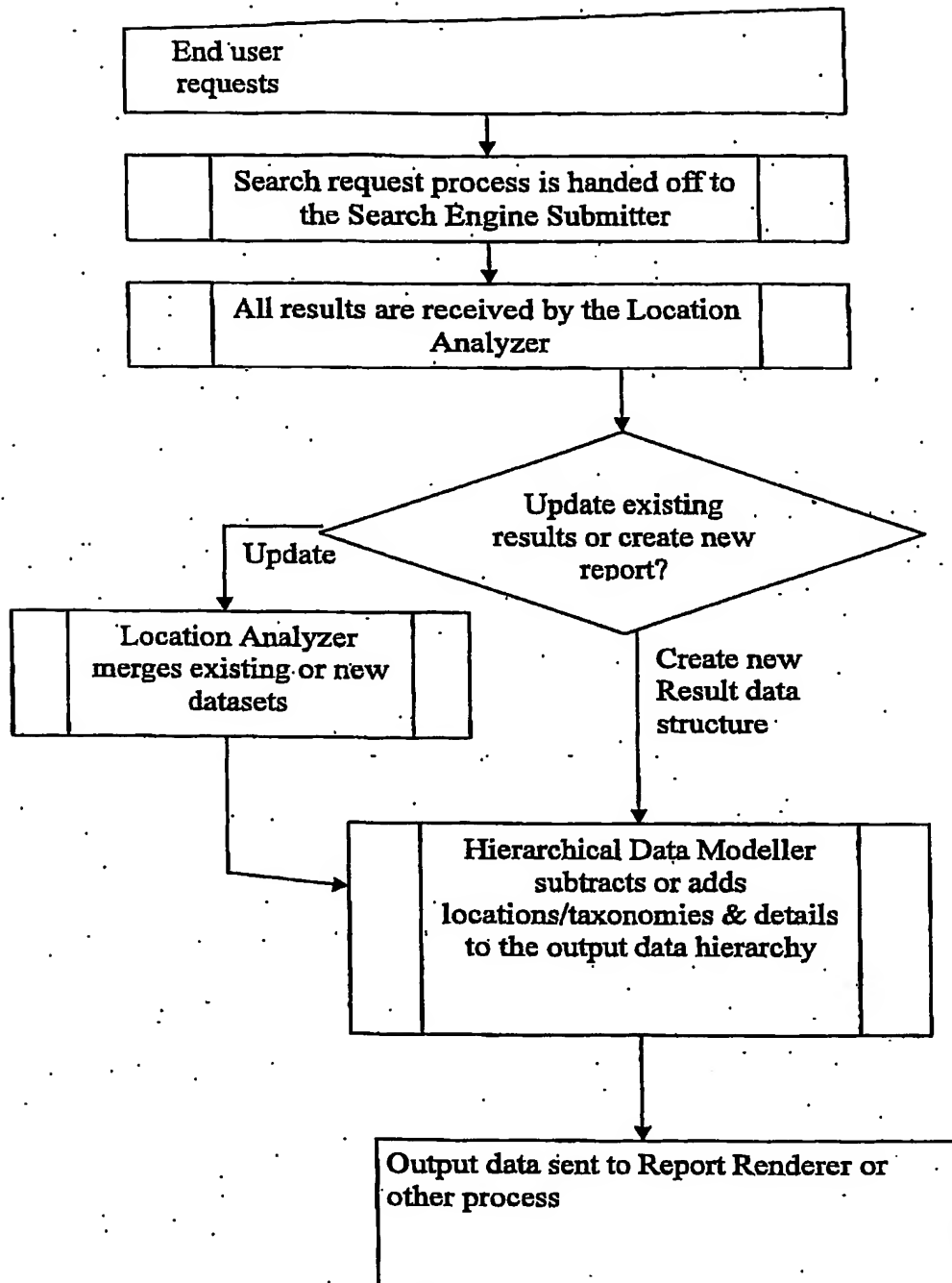


FIG 1